

The ultimate, most important question in life:  
“Do you KNOW God? Are you SAVED?”  
(The Evangelism Explosion Method)

**God's Salvation** is the most precious of all gifts! To be “**saved**” means to be **rescued** from sin and its punishment, and to be **set free** to know, love, adore, and serve God, and to **enjoy His perfect peace** for all of ETERNITY! (John 17:3)

*John 8:34, 36: “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

*John 17:3: “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

But the Bible says that **no man can earn or merit** this wonderful gift! Salvation is by **GRACE**—meaning that it is an **unearned, unmerited gift**, bestowed *only* upon unworthy sinners (Rom. 5:6-8)!

*Rom 5:6, 8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... ..but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Eph. 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

“BUT... ~~WHY~~ can't we earn, or work for, our salvation?”

## REASON #1...

**MAN IS, BY NATURE & DEED, A SINNER, AND THUS STANDS GUILTY BEFORE GOD, OUR GREAT & RIGHTEOUS JUDGE...**

*Rom. 3:10: “None is righteous, no, not one...”*

*Rom. 3:23: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

**SIN** is missing the mark of God's perfect, holy standards, in thought, word, or deed (Ex. 20:1-17; Matt. 5:21-22, 27-28, 15:11), and it is also called lawlessness & rebellion.

*1 John 3:4: Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.*

We are **GUILTY** in the sight of God!

*Eph. 2:2: “sons of disobedience...” Eph. 2:3: “by nature children of wrath...”*

*Eccl. 7:20: “Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.”*

*1John 1:8: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

*Isa. 64:6: “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”*

## REASON #2...

GOD IS, BY NATURE, A HOLY & JUST GOD WHO MUST JUDGE HUMAN SIN & EVIL. He cannot compromise His high and holy standards and remain a Holy God!

*Isa. 6:3: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts..."*

*Hab. 1:13: "Your eyes are too pure to gaze upon evil; and you cannot tolerate wickedness."*

The just punishment for sin against an infinitely holy God is eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire (Luke 16:19-31, Matt.25:46 & Rev. 20:11-15).

**"BUT... HOW, then, can we be SAVED?"**

*Luke 18:26-27: They who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But He said, "The things that are impossible with people are possible with God."*

**The ANSWER: JESUS CHRIST, the SAVIOR!**

*Matt. 1:21: "and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins."*

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the **Mediator** (1Tim. 2:5)—i.e., the One who stands between & reconciles two antagonistic parties (i.e., God & Man; Rom. 5:10—we are "enemies").

## TWO THINGS we MUST know about Jesus!

**#1: WHO He is!** He is the Eternal God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity (John 1:1-3, 8:58; Col. 2:9), who took upon Himself a true Human Nature (Phil.2:5-8, 2John 1:7).

**#2: WHAT He has done for Man!** He died on the Cross on our behalf, becoming our **substitute** (Isa. 53:1-12), enduring and **satisfying** the Father's wrath against our sin (Matt. 27:46, John 19:30). The Cross **reconciles** us to God (Eph. 2:16).

*1 Pet. 3:18: For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God...*

*1 John 4:10: In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*Rom 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Rom. 5:9-10: "...having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son..."*

## JESUS is the ONLY WAY to God! (Acts 4:12)

*Gal. 2:21: "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."*

*John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*

*Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

## "BUT... ~~HOW~~ does this Gift of salvation become MINE?"

Have you **ACCEPTED** His free offer of Eternal Life by **FAITH**? Our Faith may be a small thing—but it connects us to a powerful God and a powerful Savior!

*John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*

*Rom 10:11: For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."*

*Rom. 10:13: "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

*Acts 16:30-31: Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

*John 20:31 "...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*

Cry out to Him and receive Him—and He will NEVER reject you! (John 6:37, 51, 20:31; Rom. 3:28, 5:1, 10:13; Acts 16:30-31).

*John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

*John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.*

When we place our **TRUST** in Christ (John 3:16) and in His perfect, finished saving-work on the Cross), we are **JUSTIFIED** in the sight of God—i.e., declared "NOT GUILTY" because our sins are *reckoned* (or imputed) unto Christ, and declared "RIGHTOUS" because His perfect righteousness is *reckoned* unto us! (2 Cor.5:21; Gal. 3:6,11; Rom.3:28, 4:1-5).

It can't be earned or worked for—*justification is through FAITH!*

*Rom 3:28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

*Rom. 4:5: And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness...*

*2 Cor. 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*Gal 3:11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Through the imputation of our sins unto Christ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness unto those who believe, we are thus **legally righteous** in the sight of God. A Holy God can thus save unworthy sinners *without compromising His holy and just standards!*

Gal 3:6 ...just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

2 Cor. 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We thus return to our opening proposition:**

Eph. 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

**Receive Him TODAY!** You may not be granted another tomorrow!

2Cor. 5:20: “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

2Cor. 6:2: “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

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**As an aid to memorization** in presenting the Gospel, note how the five basic points that we have underlined correspond to the fingers on your hand!

- 1) The *anchor* digit of your hand, the THUMB, represents the *key proposal* of the Gospel—GRACE.
- 2) The *accusing pointer*, or INDEX finger, points to a sinful HUMANITY.
- 3) The *tallest* finger, the middle finger—the “TALL-MAN,” reminds us of our great GOD!
- 4) The *ring* finger reminds us of the BRIDEGROOM—our LORD JESUS CHRIST!
- 5) Our *little* finger reminds us of our FAITH: though small and weak, it connects us to a MIGHTY SAVIOR!